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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.



REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough**

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1952.



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Medical Officer of Health—H. R. Dugdale, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Acting from 1st to 31st Jan. 1952)

L. Rich, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
(From 1st February, 1952)

Chief Sanitary Inspector—R. G. Whiston, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—W. P. S. Rae, M.S.I.A.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1952 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

With the population remaining almost stationary, there has been a fall in the birth and death rates. I am pleased to report that once again there has been no maternal death.

A most important and satisfactory event during the year was the improvement in the water position with the advent of supplies from Hug Bridge.

I am pleased too, to report satisfactory progress with the conversions of the remaining pail closets to water borne carriage, and the time is not far distant when the whole town will have a satisfactory system.

Housing still remains the most important Public Health and Social problem the Council has to deal with, and the number of houses completed during 1952, namely, 73 is the same as in the previous year 1951. When this figure is considered alongside the number of applicants on the waiting list, which was 708 on the 31st December, 1952, and also

the large number of houses in the town which are unfit for human habitation, it would seem that not sufficient progress is being made. It is apparent that unless a greater sense of urgency is applied to housing, the problem will never be solved.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to your Clerk for his never failing help and guidance, and to the members of his staff for their valuable assistance, and in particular, the help given me in the performance of my duties by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. G. Whiston.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1951.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population 15430 (15450)

Births

			Total.		Male.		Female.
Live births	{	Legitimate	... 189 (219)		101 (120)		88 (99)
		Illegitimate	... 11 (7)		9 (1)		2 (6)
Still births	{	Legitimate	... 7 (2)		2 (2)		5 (-)
		Illegitimate	... - (-)		- (-)		- (-)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid. 1952 12.6 (14.6)

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 15.3 (15.5)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 33.8 (8.7)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population .45 (.13)

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 total population .35 (.36)

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

		Total.		Male.		Female.
Legitimate	...	4 (2)		2 (1)		2 (1)
Illegitimate	...	1 (-)		1 (-)		- (-)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births 25 (8.8)

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 27.6 (29.6)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 21.2 (9.1)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 90.9 (0)

Deaths

		Total.		Male.		Female.
Deaths, all ages	...	173 (189)		83 (91)		90 (98)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population 11.3 (12.2)

Death rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 11.3 (12.5)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	2	—
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	6	4	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	4	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	2	—	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	10	7	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	1	—
Diabetes ...	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	25	10	15
Coronary disease, angina ...	22	14	8
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	1	1
Other heart diseases ...	43	11	32
Other circulatory disease ...	1	—	1
Influenza ...	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	3	2	1
Bronchitis ...	10	3	7
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	2	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	21	12	9
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	3	—
All other accidents ...	2	1	1
Suicide ...	3	2	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
Total ...	173	83	90

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

		No. of Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	...	0	(0)
		—	—
Total	...	0	(0)
		—	—

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The following is an abstract from my report to the South-East Cheshire Divisional Health Committee concerning various aspects of the Local Health Authority's services as applicable to Congleton.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

As pointed out in the previous report, the Welfare Centre continues to provide a most valuable service in the care of babies and young children. It is also a most important centre of Health Education for the young mother.

The Clinic too, affords an excellent opportunity in the provision of Immunisation and Vaccination.

Welfare Foods are made available at the Centre as well as such dried milks and weaning foods considered essential. Once again, we are indebted to our voluntary helpers for the valuable assistance in helping the medical and nursing staff to carry out their important duties.

*Statistics.**Mothers' Clinic*

		New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held
Ante-natal	...	9 (32)	36 (103)	23 (24)
Post-natal	...	3 (19)	33 (80)	11 (12)

Dental :—

Pre-natal	1 (5)	1 (18)
Nursing mothers	9 (4)	30 (33)
Dentures supplied	7 (10)	

Infant Welfare

New Cases		Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
0-1	1-5	0-1	1-5		
108	12	1611	764	49	927
(147)	(15)	(1552)	(557)	(49)	(780)
					18.9
					(15.9)

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
<i>Ophthalmic Clinic</i>	6 (2)	11 (4)	13 (11)	.8 (.4)
<i>E.N.T. Clinic</i>	- (-)	- (-)	4 (4)	- (-)

Day Nurseries.

As pointed out in last year's report, the Day Nursery is not an institution to enable the mother to be relieved of the care of her own child. There are many cases where the mother must go out to work for economic reasons, and if there were not such places as Day Nurseries, it is more than probable that many babies and young children would be exposed to serious risks. Apart from this important function, the day nursery does afford an opportunity of teaching young children lessons appropriate for their ages.

It was found necessary during the year to raise the scale of charges, but despite this, the total number of attendances of all ages has increased.

During the year, extensive decorations took place, with a subsequent

improvement all round. Plans are underway to reorganise the heating arrangements, so that less smoke and greater efficiency is produced.

Statistics.

	Average No. Attending	Total Attendances
0-2 years	8 (7)	2136 (1794)
2-5 years	30 (25)	7407 (6697)

Midwives.

Two midwives employed by the Cheshire County Council practise within the Borough.

Name	Address	Telephone No.
D. H. Wright	Ewanrigg, Giantswood Lane, Congleton	Congleton 240
M. Williams	23, The Westlands, Congleton	Congleton 690

Nurse M. Williams has taken up duties in place of Nurse M. A. Lane, resigned, and the Council allowed her the tenancy of a Council house, for which the Divisional Health Committee is very thankful. I also wish to report that Nurse A. A. Rowley retired after 33 years service on the 31st May, 1952.

There is no doubt that our midwives are not fully engaged, and that too many women are going into hospital to have their babies. It must be pointed out that under certain circumstances for medical or social reasons it may be essential that a woman has her baby in hospital. But the vast majority of women, however, have their babies perfectly normally and could without any inconvenience have their babies at home. It would appear that the present policy of the hospital authorities is to encourage women to have their babies in hospital instead of deciding on medical or social grounds that it would be quite safe for them to have their babies at home.

Home Nursing.

Three District Nurses are resident in Congleton Borough. Two of these nurses occupy Council Houses, one of which is furnished and maintained through the Divisional Medical Office.

Name	Address	Telephone No.
M. S. Bowman	4, High Lowe Avenue, Congleton	Congleton 444
A. G. Carter	20, The Westlands, Congleton	Congleton 2104
A. F. Walker	4, Astbury Lane Ends, Congleton	Congleton 2004

Nurse Pugh resigned in December, 1952, and has been replaced by Nurse Carter who took over the tenancy of the Council house with the permission of your Council

Nurse Bowman, in addition to doing Home Nursing, also acts as a District Midwife.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The fall in the number of children who are being immunised and vaccinated is disquieting. But the high figures for 1951 can be largely accounted for by the fact that the school children were brought right up to date with their immunisation state and this will not need to be done again for two or three years. There would appear to be a general falling off in the demand for immunisation in the town and it cannot be too strongly emphasized that unless all children are adequately protected we are exposed to the recurrence of Diphtheria outbreaks.

There is a greater demand for the combined immunisation with Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and there is no doubt that it is possible to mitigate the effects of Whooping Cough even if we cannot guarantee to eliminate it as in the case of Diphtheria.

Statistics.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Pre-school children	...	...	82	(133)
School children	...	...	9	(156)
			91	(289)
Reinforcing Injections		...	28	(363)

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-school children	...	...	20	(22)
School children	...	...	21	(154)
			41	(176)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough).

Pre-school children	...	...	38	(24)
School children	...	...	1	(11)
			39	(35)

Primary Vaccination.

Pre-school children	...	...	40	(56)
School children	...	...	2	(3)
Adults	...	...	12	(19)
			54	(78)

Re-Vaccination.

Pre-school children	...	...	-	(-)
School children	...	...	1	(1)
Adults	...	...	19	(33)
			20	(34)

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport.

As can be seen there is an increase in mileages, journeys and patients for nearly every month, which indicates that the demand on this service is still growing.

The arrangements for the transport of ambulance and sitting case car cases remains the same, except that the County have provided a taxi for sitting cases. This has enabled us to cut the cost of transporting the sitting car type of case.

Although the figures have increased, I am pleased to report that the cost per patient per mile is still one of the lowest in the County.

I am pleased to report that there have been no serious complaints lodged against our service and when one considers the mileage and amount of work involved, it reflects very creditably on all concerned in this work. I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Bourne and his staff for their promptness and efficiency in dealing with emergencies.

Ambulance Figures—1952.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mileages	2685 (1278)	3191 (1172)	2950 (1661)	3043 (1514)	2872 (1676)	2918 (2026)	2974 (2002)	1861 (1773)	2105 (1712)	2719 (1909)	1964 (1942)	3060 (2381)
Journeys	117 (80)	120 (62)	105 (81)	112 (76)	113 (103)	101 (112)	115 (99)	73 (100)	118 (89)	114 (105)	88 (94)	96 (113)
Patients	344 (160)	346 (169)	293 (185)	442 (188)	468 (270)	331 (329)	310 (281)	136 (252)	249 (219)	248 (262)	196 (259)	238 (286)

Domestic Help Service.

The demands being made on this service are increasing and in the nature of things, are likely to go on increasing. This is a service largely employed in the care of old people in their own homes and as such is to be given every encouragement. We can never hope to deal with the problem of the aged sick entirely in hospitals and institutions, as our economic resources are not great enough to build the large number of places which are to-day necessary and which will increase as the years go on.

We do not experience serious difficulties in providing home helps and we can meet most of our demands adequately.

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Congleton during 1952 are as follows:—

Home Helps employed during 1952

Full Time	...	1	(3)
Temporary	...	27	(10)
Casual	...	10	(9)
		38	(22)

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1952

Full Time	...	-	(1)
Temporary	...	9	(8)
Casual	...	7	(8)
		16	(17)

Applications received during 1952

Confinement	...	15	(10)
Sickness	...	17	(7)
Tuberculosis	...	3	(1)
Aged and Infirm	...	22	(23)
		57	(41)

Cases attended during 1952

Confinement	...	12	(6)
Sickness	...	15	(7)
Tuberculosis	...	3	(1)
Aged and Infirm	...	42	(25)
		72	(39)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. C. Brown, Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the following information.

Water.

In May of the current year, work on the new Hug Bridge scheme had proceeded sufficiently to enable a supply from the new boreholes being delivered through the existing High Level Tower to the Town's mains distribution system. Whilst the existing Forge supply was still being utilised to capacity, the additional water from Hug Bridge was sufficient to provide consumers with a 24 hour supply.

A limited amount of Hug Bridge water has also been continuously admitted to the Low Level Towers and Low Level system. Consumers (excluding those in Buglawton) therefore, have generally had a mixed supply of Forge and Hug Bridge water. The Buglawton area of the Borough continues to be fed by the Timbersbrook borehole.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health "Cheshire and Lancashire Water Survey of 1949" the Corda Well source of supply has now been abandoned, although it is still necessary to serve isolated farms and properties outside the Borough Boundary and within the area of the Congleton Rural District.

Chlorination of the unfiltered water from the Forge wells has been continued. It is not expected, however, that filtration and aeration at Hug Bridge will be put in operation until January, 1953. Chlorination has, however, been effected since the admission of the supply into the Town's mains. The new Reservoir at Cloud Side has to a large extent intercepted most of the sand from the unfiltered borehole water, but some sand together with the iron content in the water has from time to time caused some discolouration and sediment. This will naturally be rectified when the new rapid gravity filters, aeration tank, Calgon plant, etc., are completed and in operation at the Hug Bridge Pumping Station.

The total hardness of the Hug Bridge water approximates 20 degrees, which is a little softer than the 25 degrees of total hardness of the Forge water. The mixing of the two waters has, however, had little effect upon improving hardness.

The 5.2 PH value of the Timbersbrook borehole water continues to be corrected by the addition of Soda Ash.

The existing 450,000 gallons per day obtainable from the Forge wells has been augmented by approximately 200,000 gallons per day from Hug Bridge, which together with the existing 75,000 gallons per day obtainable from the Timbersbrook borehole gives a total figure of 725,000 gallons per day required to supply the whole Borough. The figure of 200,000 gallons from the Hug Bridge source is approximate only, as the various gauges and meters have not yet been installed.

It is expected that by May of 1953, the whole of the Town will be supplied solely from the Hug Bridge boreholes, the Forge supply being held in reserve.

Upon the admission of the Hug Bridge water in May of the current year, samples were forwarded to the County Analyst which proved to be of sound bacteriological condition and satisfactory organic purity. Many samples, however, of the mixed water have been taken at the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, for bacteriological examination only, and in all cases these have proved satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Progress on the Bromley Farm Housing Estate has been accelerated with a consequent extension of the existing sewerage system in that area. In general, the "separate" system of drainage has been adopted in view of the limited capacity of existing sewers throughout the Borough. Lack of sewerage facilities in the West Heath area of the Borough has necessitated consideration of less suitable sites for housing purposes. The scheme for the sewerage of this area, submitted to the Minister in June, 1950, has had to be held in abeyance; and likewise the Minister's assent to the scheme for the extension of the Outfall Works has not yet been received.

It is understood that further progress will be made in this direction only when decisions upon the expansion of the Town are made under either the New Towns Act or the Town Development Act.

Public Cleansing.

A total of 3,100 tons of house refuse has been collected and disposed of during the year.

A weekly collection from all premises is provided.

Salvage.

	Tons.	Cwts	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	159	4	3	1696	19	2
Kitchen Waste	58	3	0	188	10	6
Rags		14	2	16	2	0
Bones		2	0		10	6
	218	4	1	£1902	2	2

Housing.

Number of Council Houses completed in 1952	...	73
Number of Council Houses under construction at 31st December, 1952		
Houses	...	112
Bungalows	...	10
Number of Applicants on the Waiting List at 31st December, 1952	...	708
Number of Visits re Housing Applications		
Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector	...	26
Sanitary Inspector	...	10

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

There have been notable increases in the incidence of Measles and Scarlet Fever. The number of cases of Measles notified during the year was 495 as compared with 37 in 1951. This can be accounted for by the fact that the country as a whole suffered a wide-spread epidemic and we took our share. There was a small reduction in the incidence of Whooping Cough from 37 to 28. In the case of Scarlet Fever, however, the number of cases increased from 18 to 57, of these, 38 were admitted to hospital. This disease seemed to be concentrated mainly in the Mossley area and affected a good proportion of the children and contacts of those children attending one school. The disease is relatively mild and free from complications.

I am pleased to report that there was no death from infectious disease during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year, 1952.

Disease.	Age Distribution.											Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 yr.	1- 2-	2- 3-	3- 4-	4- 5-	5- 10-	10- 15-	15- 20-	20- 35-	35- 45-	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	—	4	3	3	7	37	3	—	—	—	—	57	38	—
Whooping Cough	—	2	3	4	4	15	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—
Measles	7	46	46	60	59	255	12	2	6	1	1	495	12	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1	2	1	2	1	—	4	3	7	32	2	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	5	—	—
Encephallitis	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—

Tuberculosis.

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1952 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1943.

Notifications—1943 to 1952.

	1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 yr.								I												
1 - 5				I		I		I							I		I			
5 - 15		2		I		I			3		2		2		I	I	I		I	
15 - 25	I	I	2		3	I	I		I						I		I	I		
25 - 35			2		3				I	2		3		3		I			I	
35 - 45	I		2		2	I	I		2		I		2	I	2					I
45 - 55	2		I		2		2	I	I				I		2				I	
55 - 65	I	I			I				2				I		I		2		2	
65 & over					I		I		2								I		I	
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 yr.			I							I		I								
1 - 5									2		I						I			
5 - 15		I		2		4		I		I			2				I			
15 - 25				I	3	4		I	I	I		I	I	5		5		2		
25 - 35					I	2				3				4		I		2	I	
35 - 45			I			I				I			I		I				I	
45 - 55		I		I									I		I					
55 - 65										I		I		I						
65 & over																				
TOTAL	5	6	9	6	16	8	12	4	9	8	10	4	10	7	20	3	13	4	9	4

Deaths—1943 to 1952.

MALE	1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
Up to 1 yr.																				
1 - 5				I		I						I				I				
5 - 15										I										
15 - 25												I						I		
25 - 35	I		I						I				I					I		
35 - 45			I		I	I	I		I				I		I					
45 - 55	I	I			3		4				I				I				2	
55 - 65	I		I		2		2		I						I			I		
65 & over			I		I		I		3									I		

FEMALE

Up to 1 yr.										I										
1 - 5																			I	
5 - 15																				
15 - 25				I	2						I		I							
25 - 35			3				I													
35 - 45													I							
45 - 55																				
55 - 65	I		I																	
65 & over											I									
TOTAL	4	1	8	2	9	2	9	-	6	2	3	2	4	-	3	I	3	2	2	-

The notification rate in Congleton of all forms of Tuberculosis per thousand of the population is .84 as compared with 1.09 the previous year and the death rate is .13 as compared with .32 for 1951.

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1952, were as follows :—

	Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	66 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	—	—	1	2	9	17	7	8	3	47
Female Pulmonary	—	—	1	10	14	9	14	4	1	53
Male Non-Pulmonary	—	—	8	8	3	5	1	1	—	26
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	3	3	2	2	3	2	—	15

All contacts of notified cases are closely followed up by Health Visitors and examined repeatedly at the Chest Clinic, and where necessary vaccination with B.C.G. is carried out either by the hospital or your Medical Officer of Health.

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. R. G. Whiston the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Number
of Visits.

General.

Water supply	...	...	91
Drainage	...	...	428
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	12
Tents, Van and Sheds	...	...	13
Factories	...	...	83
Rats & Mice	...	...	28
Schools	...	...	20
Shops Acts	...	...	31
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	372
Building Licences	...	...	43
Interviewing & Appointments	...	...	384
Refuse Collection	...	...	15
Smoke observations	...	...	6
Pet Animals Act	...	...	5
Pail Conversions	...	...	199

HOUSING.

Under Public Health Acts.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	257
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	479

Under Housing Acts.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	6
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	65

Overcrowding.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	2
-------------------------	-----	---

Verminous Premises.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	86
Found verminous and disinfested	...	2
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	30

Infectious Diseases.

			Number of Visits
Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	63
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	12
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	2

Food Premises and Food Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	420
Butchers	...	...	38
Fishmongers & Poulterers	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	70
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	...	...	26
Dairies & Milkshops	...	...	38
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	45
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	104
Bakehouses	...	...	15
Market Stalls	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	13
Milk Sampling	...	...	26
Total			3546

Summary of Notices Served.

No. of Informal Notices Served	...	...	211
No. of Informal Notices Complied with	...	...	211
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...	3
No. of Statutory Notices Complied with	...	...	3

Complaints.

During the year 234 complaints were received and investigated; 33 of these were unfounded.

57 were found to be relating to dangerous structures, gas and water leakages and other matters and were referred to the Departments concerned.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Nuisances.

Following complaints and as a result of routine survey, 257 houses were inspected, a total of 307 nuisances were found and 164 informal notices were issued. In 3 cases statutory notices were served. 479 visits were made to houses previously inspected and 383 nuisances were found to be abated. 169 informal and 3 statutory notices were complied with.

Drainage.

Installation of new drainage at all premises, except Corporation owned properties, and repair of defective drainage was supervised and the necessary testing carried out. 428 visits were made in connection with this work and the tracing of existing drainage at various properties.

Disinfestation.

D.D.T. compounds in liquid and powder form are used for this purpose, and successful results have been obtained.

The houses and household effects of new tenants for Council Houses are inspected and where necessary disinfestation is undertaken before removal. For this and other reasons, 86 inspections have been carried out and 20 premises treated, for bed bugs—3, steam flies, cockroaches and crickets—13, woodworm—1, and flies—3.

Conversions of Pails.

The Council's resolution to make a grant of £5 towards the cost of conversion of pail to water closets was continued and 5 applications for grant were made and the conversions carried out.

The Council instituted a scheme for the compulsory conversion at 65 properties and informal notices were issued in respect of these and as a result 12 conversions were completed at a cost £271 - 4 - 6, an average of £22 - 12 - 0½ each, the Council bearing half of the total, namely £135 - 12 - 3.

The number of convertible pails remaining in the Borough is estimated at 84.

Offensive Trades.

One premises is registered for tripe boiling. The preparation room has been reconstructed on modern hygienic lines. No complaints were received in connection with the trade.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

Enquiries have been made into 63 cases of infectious disease. Disinfection of premises following these, and removals and deaths of T.B. cases, has been carried out with liquid formalin and where necessary infected bedding has been taken to the Isolation Hospital, Macclesfield, for disinfection by steam.

Infected library books are treated with gaseous fumigant before return for circulation.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

13 visits have been made in connection with the control of moveable dwellings.

2 licences to station and use a caravan have been renewed and 2 new licences have been issued for the same purpose.

Public Mortuary.

This service is under the charge of the Department and during the year there have been 10 admissions.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-49.

6 houses were inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts, and 65 revisits were made to houses previously inspected.

16 condemned houses in Clearance Areas have been demolished and the sites cleared. The demolition of 4 Clearance Areas has been completed.

2 individual unfit houses were demolished.

Official representation was made to the Council in respect of 2 houses, and demolition orders were made under the provisions of Sec. 11.

Table showing position of Condemned Houses.

	1950.	1951.	1952.
Number of occupied houses in confirmed clearance areas ...	27	24	20
Number of occupied houses in areas represented but not confirmed ...	44	44	44
Number of vacant houses in confirmed clearance areas ...	36	39	27
Number of vacant houses in areas represented but not confirmed ...	1	1	1
Number of individual unfit houses occupied ...	4	4	6
Number of individual unfit houses vacant ...	3	3	4

Improvement Grants.

The two applications submitted in 1950 and 1951 were approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. One of these applications was withdrawn before payment of the grant.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.**Food Premises.**

735 inspections of premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of food were carried out. 121 contraventions were found and 35 informal notices issued. On re-inspection 109 contraventions had been abated, and 29 notices complied with.

Notices requesting customers not to bring in dogs were distributed to all retail food shops. These notices were welcomed by the shopkeepers and in only two cases did the occupier refuse them.

Ice Cream.

There are 9 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. 8 of these use the "cold mix" method and the remaining one has the necessary plant for heat treatment in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

37 premises are registered for the sale only of ice cream.

45 inspections have been made and 18 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, for Bacteriological examination by the Methylene blue test. Results showed 8 samples Grade 1, 8 Grade 2, and 2 Grade 4.

Preserved Food.

23 premises are registered for the manufacture of preserved food (sausages, potted and pressed meats, etc.)

Milk & Dairies Regulations.

Registered are 9 Dairies and 36 Distributors.

Under the Special Designation Regulations, 15 licences have been issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 3 for Pasteurised Milk and 20 for Sterilized Milk.

38 visits have been made in connection with registration and licensing.

20 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford, for the Methylene Blue test and those which had been heat treated were subjected to the Phenolphthalein and Phosphatase tests. 18 samples passed the Methylene Blue test and two failed, the other tests showed that heat treatment had been satisfactorily carried out.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 10 licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. All slaughtering is carried out at two of these, which are under the control of the Ministry of Food.

420 visits were made in connection with meat inspection and renewals of licences.

MEAT & OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected.

	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1950	17	116	887	259	379	3965	81	5704
1951	13	107	818	390	399	3022	177	4926
1952	8	56	791	296	1070	4250	687	7158

Condemnations.

		Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	...	360	791	1070	4250	687
All diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole Carcases condemned	...	—	4	93	15	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	122	279	16	983	110
Percentage affected with diseases, other than Tuberculosis	1950	34.69	39.46	14.25	18.79	23.45
	1951	27.84	39.48	19.29	21.11	45.76
	1952	23.33	35.90	10.10	23.48	17.61
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole Carcases condemned	...	5	13	8	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	71	266	—	—	72
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	1950	13.01	45.21	.53	—	8.64
	1951	14.31	40.83	2	—	11.29
	1952	20.84	35.27	.75	—	11.21

Weight of Meat Condemned.

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	8	14	3	8
Mutton	...		6	0	3
Veal	...	2	5	2	0
Pork	...	1	13	0	0
Offal	...	11	2	2	1
Total	...	24	1	3	12

Particulars of Casualty Animals from Farm Premises and Ungraded Cattle from the Cattle Market, Slaughtered at Owners Risk
(included in above Total)

	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1950	3	—	149	7	122	31	69	381
1951	7	2	112	23	158	46	109	457
1952	1	2	65	7	283	72	191	621

Weight of Meat Condemned (included in above Totals)

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	3	19	1	2
Mutton	...		5	0	10
Veal	...	1	16	3	27
Pork	...	1	1	3	24
Offal	...	4	7	3	21
Total	...	11	11	1	0

Other Foods Condemned.

		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Canned Goods	...	9	1	10
Provisions (Butter, Luncheon Meat, Sausages)	...		1	21
Other Foods	...		1	12
Total	...	10	0	15

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

4 Cows were slaughtered under the provisions of the above Order, all were found to be affected with non-advanced Tuberculosis and the affected parts and organs were condemned.

Congenital Tuberculosis in Calves.

During the year, the carcasses of 6 calves under 3 weeks old were found to be affected with congenital tuberculosis, and these cases were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (Animal Health Division) for follow up enquiries respecting their dams. As a result of these enquiries, two cows were sent to a Knackery and shot, and 4 showed no clinical evidence of disease, and vaginal smears gave negative results.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The stunning of all animals in the Borough is carried out by means of captive bolt pistols.

35 Slaughtermen's Licences were renewed during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council has one full time operative whose duties are concerned with the destruction of rats and mice.

28 visits have been made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with complaints and general supervision.

All work at business premises was carried out after written or verbal informal intimation had been given and no statutory notices have been served.

A summary of the incidence and treatment carried out is appended.

Prevalence of Rats and Mice.

	Type of Property.				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
Total number of properties in Local Authority's district ...	37	4469	126	889	5521
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) notification or ...	4	99	4	52	159
(b) otherwise ...	28	35	24	58	145
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	Major —	—	—	—	—
	Minor 25	82	26	48	181
Number of properties found to be infested by mice...	3	50	2	64	119
Number of infested properties treated ...	21	117	15	112	265

Maintenance Treatment for Rats in Sewers.

It is estimated that there are 425 man-holes in the Borough, a test bait of 10% of these was undertaken and two treatments carried out during the year.

At the first treatment 47 man-holes were pre-baited, 23 showed "Takes" and were poisoned; at the 2nd, 35 man-holes were pre-baited and 20 poisoned.

Shops Act, 1950.

31 Inspections have been carried out under the provisions of the Act, 6 contraventions were noted and as a result 3 informal notices were served. 2 of these notices were complied with and 18 contraventions were remedied.

Factory Act, 1937.

83 inspections have been made and a summary of visits, contraventions and notices is as follows :—

Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	5	4	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	129	79	2	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	134	83	2	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were	
	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences		
(a) insufficient ...	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	19	35
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—
Total ...	20	36

No Certificates have been granted during 1952 in respect of adequate means of escape in case of fire, under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Outworkers.

A total of 11 outworkers are shown as employed by Factories in the area in the lists submitted in accordance with Section 110 of the Act. All are engaged on the making, altering or repairing of wearing apparel.

Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulation 56A.

43 visits were made in connection with the issue of licences and permits for materials.

18 licences have been issued by this Department for a total of £3,780.

